

U.S. Application No.: 10/517,156
Amendment A
Reply to Office action dated 10/12/2006

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 3968.116

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following paragraph:

[0002] The invention concerns a process for the optimal adjustment of the deformation geometry of a deformation tool provided for deforming a sheet (preferably sheet metal) ~~according to the precharacterizing portion of claim 1.~~ Further, the invention concerns a test tool (experimentation tool, trial-and-error tool) for carrying out the process ~~according to the precharacterizing portion of claim 12,~~ and a commensurate deformation tool ~~according to the precharacterizing portion of claim 15.~~

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following paragraph:

[0006] For the solution of the task a process ~~having the characteristics of claim 1~~ is proposed. ~~The process is characterized~~ in that the sheet metal is preformed by means of the deformation tool to be adjusted; subsequently, for the correction of the sheet metal geometry at least one partial area deformation is introduced into the sheet metal by means of a test tool, and after obtaining the reliable sheet metal geometry the geometry of the partial area deformation is consulted or relied on for adjusting the deformation geometry of the deformation tool.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following paragraph:

[0015] The task is further solved by a test tool ~~having the characteristics of claim 12,~~ ~~which is characterized by~~ a carrier body, to which an adjustment element is sideably guided for sheet metal deformation, and at least one deformation insert. Therein it is possible that one respective, in particular replaceable or exchangeable, deformation insert be comprised of at least two insert parts essentially complimentary in deformation geometry, wherein a first insert part is

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secured to the adjustment element and a second insert part is secured to the carrier body. A test tool of this type enables a targeted introduction of a variable partial area deformations adapted to the respective necessary geometric requirements in the preformed sheet metal. The test tool is used to cause a supplementary and localized deformation simulation on the preformed sheet metal. The test tool can therein advantageously exhibit a manually releasable insert part securing system. This makes possible an easy to manipulate equipping or outfitting of the test tool with respective associated insert parts, so that various partial area deformations can also be introduced comparatively rapidly on the preformed sheet metal. The securing system can be, for example, a clamp and/or a screw securing system.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following paragraph:

[0016] For solving the task according to the invention there is further provided a deformation tool ~~having the characteristics of claim 15, which is characterized thereby, that it includes~~ including a stamp and a die plate, wherein at least the stamp includes at least one receptacle seat for the removable securing of an associated deformation tool insert part for bringing about a partial area deformation in the sheet metal. In certain cases a stamp insert part and/or a die plate insert part can be identical to the corresponding insert parts of the test tool. The test tool obtained geometric deformation results can therewith be utilized directly for the correcting or adaptation of the deformation geometry of the deformation tool. The deformation geometry of the deformation tool as a series tool can therein be adapted relatively rapidly in a predetermined partial deformation area and with flexibility to the respective deformation requirements to be satisfied.